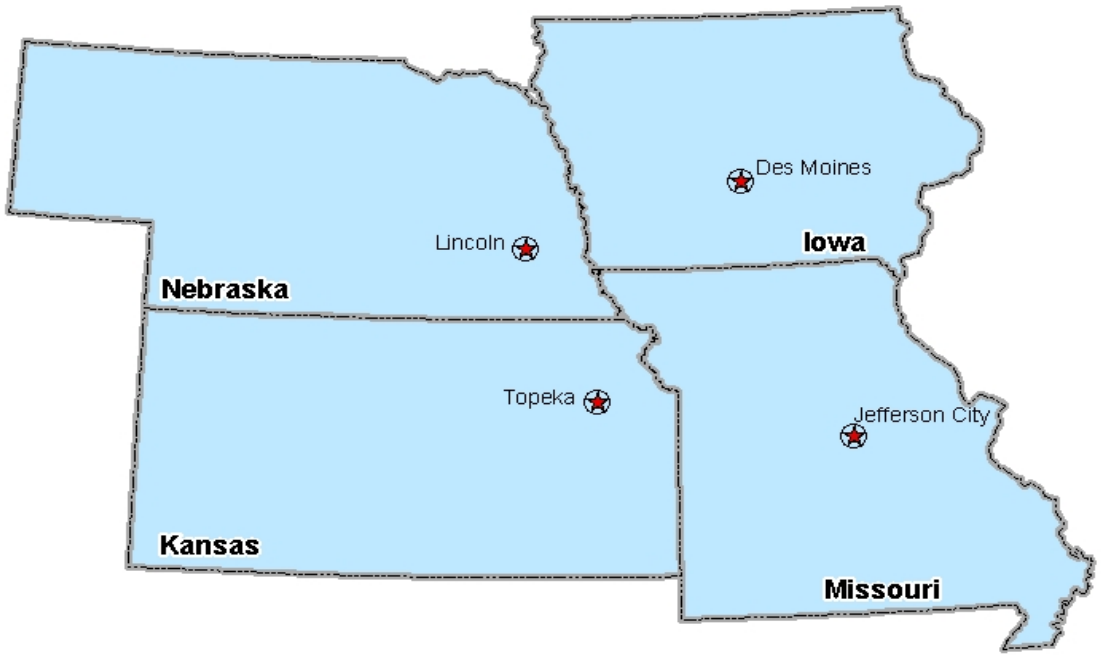
EPA Region 7
United States Environmental Protection Agency



Compendium of State Assistance for Small Communities in EPA Region 7

September 2006

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Introduction

EPA Region 7 and the state environmental departments in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska have struggled with the impact that various environmental issues have on small, rural communities. One size often does not fit all in environmental regulation. The challenge of addressing these issues in small communities has been a standing topic at the state environmental directors meetings over the past several years. Through these discussions, Region 7 states have shared and learned about ways to address small community issues.

Each state operates a variety of programs designed to help small communities deal with federal and state environmental requirements. This guide was created by the state environmental departments and EPA Region 7 to showcase some of these programs. The intent is to provide a tool to help small communities identify available assistance in their state, and highlight programs and activities that might be of interest to other states.

Definition of Small Community: For purposes of this guide, a *small community* is defined as a municipality, village, or township with a population base of less than 5,000. It should be noted, however, that a substantial percentage of these small communities in Region 7 actually have populations of less than 500. For example, more than 300 of Nebraska's 530 incorporated municipalities have populations of less than 500.

The following chart shows state populations and a breakdown of incorporated places in each of the four states. Please note that an *Incorporated Place* is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as a type of governmental unit incorporated under state law as a city, town, borough, or village and having legally prescribed limits, powers, and functions.

State Populations and Number of Incorporated Places

	IOWA	KANSAS	MISSOURI	NEBRASKA
Total State Population	**2,926,324**	**2,688,418**	**5,595,211**	**1,711,263**
Total Incorporated Places:	**949**	**626**	**947**	**531**
Population greater than 5,001	77	57	121	32
Population 1,001 - 5,000	198	140	212	76
Population 501 - 1,000	190	93	150	91
Population 500 or less	484	336	464	332

Note: Information provided above is based on July 1, 2004 population estimates data. The data can be found using the American FactFinder tool on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site. The data set from the 2004 Populations Estimates was used, which utilizes the 2000 Census population data as the base and calculates population for July 1, 2004, using data for births, deaths, and migration.

Unique Challenges that Small Communities Face: Small communities have the same environmental responsibilities as larger municipalities, yet they have far fewer technical, financial, and managerial resources to address complex federal and state environmental requirements. Larger municipalities generally have full-time staff dedicated to planning for and complying with environmental regulations. These individuals are familiar with the procedures and processes required to apply for permits and grant assistance funds. They also have larger budgets and a bigger population base from which to draw additional resources. By contrast, small communities have limited technical staff available and may not be aware of all of the options available to the community. In addition, there are fewer community financial resources

from which to draw, making it more difficult to comply with federal and state environmental regulations.

An example of this challenge is the implementation of drinking water standards. The standards are the same for large and small communities. However, the cost to implement these standards is disproportionately higher for small communities due to smaller budgets and fewer available technical resources. As a result, the cost per capita for small communities is higher than in larger cities. Distribution systems and drinking water sources for small communities often reflect additional vulnerabilities not typically found in larger systems. For example, longer distribution lines between remote rural homes are more vulnerable to potential contamination sources.

Other potential problems in small communities include, but are not limited to:

- Wastewater treatment and disposal needs
- Solid waste landfills (upgrades & closings and long distances to permitted facilities)
- Air quality issues (open burning, etc.)
- Contaminated site cleanups
- Leaking underground storage tanks
- Abandoned buildings/houses and accumulation of household trash

Layout of the Guide: This guide is a compilation of some of the programs/activities underway in 2006 in all four Region 7 states. Each state provided a description for each highlighted activity. For consistency, these descriptions are divided into five parts:

1. History/Purpose – describes the program's intent and how it developed
2. Implementation – how the program works
3. Stakeholders – what other entities are involved and/or who can apply for assistance
4. Achievements to Date – highlights some of the program's achievements to show the kind of benefit this program can have for small communities
5. State Contacts – provided for additional information, since these descriptions are fairly brief

Kansas - Financial Assistance for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

History/Purpose

Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) offers assistance for local units of government, municipalities, counties and regional governmental entities to handle household hazardous waste (HHW). Pesticides, paints and varnishes; paint thinners and other solvents; motor oil, antifreeze and other automobile fluids; household cleaners, polishes and waxes; wood preservatives, photo and hobby chemicals; swimming pool chemicals and batteries and other miscellaneous hazardous materials sold to the general public are what make up HHW. Established in 1989, the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program provides regulatory, compliance, enforcement, technical and financial assistance to what the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) describes as a model national program.

Implementation

Over the years, a network of 37 (and counting) permanent facilities operated by local units of government service their communities, and numerous satellite facilities provide access to over 90 percent of the Kansas population with access to proper HHW reuse, recycling, diverting and disposal. Only local units of government are eligible for the grants. While the program was launched with fees on water use and fertilizer and pesticide sales through the State Water Plan, primary funding for this program for the past decade has come from the $1.00 per ton (tonnage fee) assessed on municipal solid waste disposed in Kansas and the limited funds generated by the Hazardous Waste Treatment Funds.

Stakeholders

All levels of local units of government and regional groups involving the public sector are eligible for this grant program that serves all households in Kansas.

Examples of Achievements to Date

- 37 facilities provide HHW access to 81 of the 105 Kansas counties.
- Over the past decade (State Fiscal Years/SFY 1995-2004), $14,291,936 has been spent to serve 308,705 Kansas citizens collecting 27,184,465 pounds of HHW that otherwise would have gone to a landfill or ended up in the Kansas groundwater.
- With an average of 88 pounds collected, total cost per participant was $46.30 in SFY 2004.
- Pounds collected per year have grown from one million to four million pounds in the last decade.
- Number of participants per year has grown from 12,000 to over 45,000, with an 11.8 percent increase from 2003 to 2004.
- 68 percent of all that HHW was reused, diverted or recycled, saving millions of dollars in disposal costs.

State Contact for Additional Information

Maria Morey or Kent Foerster, (785) 296-1600, Kansas Department Health and Environment, Bureau of Waste Management, www.kdhe.state.ks.us/waste/

Kansas - Financial Assistance for Recycling, Composting, Source Reduction and Public Education

History/Purpose
The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) offers technical and financial assistance for recycling, composting, and waste reduction activities. Established in 1996, the Competitive Plan Implementation (CPI) grant program offers a yearly opportunity to seek funding for public and private source reduction projects. The focus is primarily on reducing wastes going to Kansas municipal solid waste landfills. A waste tire market development grant program was added in 2004, designed to encourage more waste tire recycling in Kansas.

Implementation
Potential applicants attend grant workshops and file by the annual grant application deadline. Staff summarizes the applications in a standard format for the Governor's Solid Waste Grants Advisory Committee that reviews, scores and makes recommendations to the Secretary of KDHE and the Governor. With millions in requests and usually only a million dollars available each round, the grants are very competitive. In addition to the third party review process, all projects need to be approved by county solid waste management planning committees or the respective County Commissions. Funding for this program comes from the $1.00 per ton (tonnage fee) assessed on municipal solid waste disposed in Kansas.

In 2004, the Kansas Legislature authorized a Waste Tire Grant Program and added an eighth member to the Grants Advisory Committee representing waste tire interests. The waste tire program grants funding for capital equipment purchases to develop Kansas waste tire markets. Funding for this program comes from the 25-cent excise tax assessed on every new tire sold in Kansas and averages $200,000 to $300,000 annually.

Stakeholders
All levels of local units of government and regional groups involving the public and private sector are eligible for these grant programs.

Examples of Achievements to Date
Over $14 million has been awarded through 346 grant contracts to nearly 200 cities, counties, and other public and private sector programs serving the state of Kansas over the past nine years. Communities and businesses have added jobs, reduced wastes, and improved their programs through this program. A quarter of a million dollars has been used in the first two years of the waste tire market development grant program.

State Contact for Additional Information
Kris Hicks or Kent Foerster, (785) 296-1600, Kansas Department Health and Environment, Bureau of Waste Management, www.kdhe.state.ks.us/waste/

Kansas - Source Water Protection Program (SWPP)

History/Purpose

Based on the principle that prevention is often cheaper than the costs incurred in treating contaminated water, the Kansas Source Water Protection (SWP) Program helps communities throughout the State of Kansas develop and implement plans to protect their source of drinking water. Source Water Assessments (SWA) completed in 2004 are the first step in completing a comprehensive plan for protecting the public water supply system. Public water supply systems and their surrounding communities use the SWA and the accompanying Susceptibility Analysis Scores to determine the contaminants and activities that pose the greatest threats to their water supply. A team process is utilized to engage a cross section of the community in all steps of the process from planning to implementation.

Implementation

An implementation plan for all water quality protection measures identified during the process is included in the SWP document. Water quality protection measures or established Best Management Practices are assigned to address potential sources of contamination. Projects identified by the SWP Plan that address nonpoint sources of contamination are eligible for Clean Water Act Section 319 grant funding. Communities are encouraged to research and identify additional sources of funding as applicable.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders for the planning and implementation process represent the diverse interests of the community. This group may include representatives from local government, business owners, farmers, educators, homeowners, land developers, local civic and environmental organizations, or college students.

Examples of Achievements to Date

Source Water Protection Plans in the planning stages include:

- Marais des Cygnes/Marmaton/Little Osage River Watersheds, a cooperative Missouri-Kansas planning committee developing a watershed plan for the Missouri portion of the Marias des Cygnes River, Marmaton, and Little Osage River watersheds located within Bates, Cass, and Vernon Counties. Wellhead Protections Plans have been approved and implemented in the Kansas portion of the watershed since 1995.
- Barber County Rural Water District #3
- The City of Conway Springs Public Water Supply System

State Contact for Additional Information

Additional information for the watershed planning process may be obtained by contacting Sheryl Ervin by phone at (785) 296-8038, or e-mail at servin@kdhe.state.ks.us or online at www.kdhe.state.ks.us/nps/.

Kansas - Local Environmental Protection Program (LEPP)

History/Purpose

In 1989, Kansas lawmakers authorized the "environmental protection grant program," providing state funding to local health departments to develop and implement environmental protection plans. These plans were to "include, but not limited to, the sanitary code, subdivision water and wastewater plan, solid waste management plan, hazardous waste management plan, public water supply protection plan, and nonpoint source pollution control plan."

The Kansas Water Plan Fund finances local Environmental Protection Grants. Since the inception of the statewide LEPP in 1994, an average of $1.5 million per year has been provided to Kansas counties. Plans are required to identify activities and tasks that the LEP Program will execute to contribute towards attainment of Kansas Water Plan Objectives.

Implementation

The Kansas Department Health & Environment (KDHE) Bureau of Water, Watershed Management Section, administers the LEPP. In federal fiscal year 2005, $1.6 million was awarded to Kansas counties for implementation of the statewide Local Environmental Protection Program. Currently, 101 of Kansas' 105 counties have adopted a sanitary code, prepared an LEPP plan, and received state fiscal year 2006 state LEPP funds. Forty-two counties implement an individual LEPP, while 59 counties have pooled their funds to create Local Environmental Protection Groups.

Annual LEPP plans are proposed, approved, and managed on the web-based Kansas Clean Waters (KCW) system, which can be accessed at http://kcw.kdhe.state.ks.us. LEPP quarterly affidavits and performance reports are also managed in the KCW system.

County sanitary codes typically authorize enforcement of the code in unincorporated areas only, which means that environmental protection issues in incorporated communities are addressed in various ways:

1. Community oversight with no assistance, or limited assistance, from the county LEPP.
2. Adoption of all or part of the sanitary code by the community. Options:
    a. Community oversight with no assistance, or limited assistance, from the county LEPP.
    b. Interlocal agreement with the county LEPP to administer the sanitary code within the boundaries of the incorporated community.

Environmental protection issues in small unincorporated communities are addressed by the county LEPP.

Stakeholders

The principal stakeholders in the program are KDHE, the Kansas Water Office, counties (commissions, health departments, sanitarians), cities, and unincorporated communities.

Examples of Achievements to Date

Projects in which LEPPs have assisted small communities:

1. The Northwest LEP group has offered assistance with on-site wastewater systems and source water protection to all incorporated communities within its service area.
2. The Saline County LEPP received an LEPP target grant to conduct an inventory of private water wells and on-site wastewater systems at an unincorporated community (80-lot mobile home park and 56-lot single-family subdivision) located on a federal reservoir that provides drinking water for the largest water district in Kansas.
3. LEPP staff throughout the state conducted source water assessments for non-community public water suppliers (i.e., mobile home parks, campgrounds, unincorporated subdivisions, etc.).

4. Several LEPP staff are participating in Watershed Restoration & Protection Strategies (WRAPS) and source water protection projects throughout the state.

State Contact for Additional Information

For more information about the LEPP, please contact David Gurss at 785-296-4195 or e-mail at dgurss@kdhe.state.ks.us. Additional information is posted online at www.kdhe.state.ks.us/lepp.

Kansas - Small Arid Landfill Operations Audits

History/Purpose

Since October 7, 1993, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has administered the permitting and regulation of small arid landfills under Subtitle D of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Small arid landfills (SALs) are those facilities that receive less than 20 tons of waste daily, have no evidence of groundwater contamination, and are located in an area that receives less than 25 inches of precipitation annually.

Currently, there are 33 SALs operating in 32 counties across western Kansas. The purpose of this project is to improve operational efficiencies and personnel safety at these facilities, effectively utilize landfill airspace, reduce operating costs and water pollution, and extend the useful life of equipment and the landfill.

Implementation

This project will utilize in-house personnel and a private contractor. The initial communication phase will include meetings and correspondence to facility operators and county commissioners to solicit their partnership to improve landfill operations.

Phase I will begin with development of a detailed questionnaire to collect relevant information about each landfill which will be mailed to each facility operator. The results of this survey will be used to create a computerized spreadsheet model to evaluate each landfill's performance based on regulatory requirements, industry standards, and peer review. Spreadsheet data will be compared to KDHE regulatory compliance inspection results and permit history to thoroughly characterize each landfill. This information will be compiled into a preliminary report of performance and recommendations.

Phase II of the project will consist of on-site operations audits of the 33 SALs. The audits will include discussing the results of the spreadsheet model and findings in the preliminary evaluation with each facility operator. Then contractor personnel will evaluate and record the efficiency and productivity of operational tasks and site-specific conditions. This information will be combined with the preliminary report to create a final report for each landfill.

The final phase of the project will be to prepare a comprehensive report on the operation of SALs in Kansas and present the findings at the Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Operators Training Course offered every other year by KDHE. This year it was held on February 22-23, 2006 in Great Bend.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders in this project include small arid landfill operators, county commissioners, KDHE professional waste management staff, and the population of 32 Kansas Counties, which rely on these facilities for municipal solid waste disposal. Additional stakeholders include other landfill operators and waste management professionals, county and regional solid waste management committees, and the Kansas Legislature.

Examples of Achievements to Date

This is a new project and achievements are expected to consist of those items discussed under the History/Purpose section. The project started on October 1, 2005.

State Contact for Additional Information

Dennis Degner, Ph.D., P.E., Chief, Solid Waste Permits Section, (785) 296-1601, or visit www.kdhe.state.ks.us/waste for additional information.

Kansas - Targeted Assistance to Small Communities Public Education and Outreach

History/Purpose

The intricate and dynamic task of managing waste in Kansas is a multifaceted effort, including, but not limited to, the use of regulatory controls, processing, planning, and design. As such, no single disciplined approach can be utilized; rather, combined efforts of various professions and tactics are called upon to insure properly managed waste in the state.

Public outreach and education efforts are not dissimilar. Preexisting efforts have included a generalized widespread approach to proper waste management practices to the general public, as well as to specific local communities. After attending an EPA Region 7-sponsored seminar focusing on Community-Based Social Marketing (i.e., target marketing), Bureau of Waste Management (BWM) officials discussed and implemented a focused pilot project to effect change in very specific local waste systems in 2004.

Implementation

BWM staff identified singular and specific potential community partners who would be willing to participate in the pilot effort. Once pinpointed and recruited, the partners identified a singular challenge they were experiencing at the local level in their waste reduction efforts. Generally following the McKenzie-Mohr design, barriers and benefits were identified, along with examination of prompts, norms and effective communication messages. Baseline measurements were established to be compared to subsequent measurements in the post-project period.

Stakeholders:

Nemaha County Recycling: Identified and targeted light industrial manufacturing facilities in Sabetha, Kansas that were not collecting cardboard.
Garden City Recycling: Identified and targeted a notable decrease in the use of their recently relocated manned drop-off facility.
Dodge City: Identified and targeted a desire to have the local household hazardous waste facility receive an additional collection of materials by the Hispanic community.
Edwards County Conservation District: Identified and targeted an increase in collections of glass from businesses in Kinsley, Kansas.

Any Kansas municipality, county, local unit of government or institution, and the private sector, is eligible for future efforts.

Examples of Achievements to Date

- There was a dramatic and sustained increase in collection of cardboard from **Sabetha** businesses.
- The increased utilization of the manned recycling drop-off center averted the potential closure of the site, due to increased exposure and use by **Garden City** residents.
- Developed specific materials to heighten awareness in the **Dodge City** Hispanic community of safety issues related to household hazardous waste and proper disposal techniques.
- There was a noticeable increase in collection of glass from area business in **Kinsley** (collection facility is paid a comparable fee for waste that otherwise would have been transferred to landfill).

State Contact for Additional Information:

Rodney Ferguson or Kent Foerster, (785) 296-1600, Kansas Department Health and Environment, Bureau of Waste Management, www.kdhe.state.ks.us/waste/

Kansas - Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS)

History/Purpose

A Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy is a planning and management framework intended to engage stakeholders in a process to:

- identify watershed restoration and protection needs
- establish management goals
- create a cost-effective action plan to achieve goals
- implement the action plan

In addition to the WRAPS framework, a report is generated that records the stakeholders' decisions concerning goals, the plan to achieve those goals, and the resources required to execute the plan.

WRAPS efforts are needed to address a variety of water resource concerns facing Kansas communities. These concerns often include water quality, public water supply protection, flooding, and habitat protection and/or restoration.

Implementation

A WRAPS Working Group has been formed to institutionalize WRAPS in Kansas. The WRAPS Working Group is comprised of the Kansas Natural Resources Sub-Cabinet and other state and federal agency members. On a yearly basis, the WRAPS Working Group will solicit WRAPS related projects for potential funding. WRAPS projects are divided into four basic categories (development, assessment, planning, and implementation). In federal fiscal year 2005, $2 million was available to fund new or continuing WRAPS projects. All WRAPS projects are proposed, approved, and managed on the web-based Kansas Clean Waters System, which can be accessed at http://kcw.kdhe.state.ks.us.

Stakeholders

Any public or private organization that applies for membership and accepts the Statement of Principles and Partnership Agreement is eligible to join the Kansas Watershed Partnership. The Kansas Watershed Partnership's purpose is to assure that all Kansas water resource stakeholders are implementing the WRAPS by providing advice to the WRAPS Working Group and promoting stakeholder participation in local WRAPS projects.

Examples of Achievements to Date

Local WRAPS projects underway include:
Melvern Reservoir Water Quality Protection Implementation Project
Banner Creek Reservoir WRAPS Development Project
Upper Wakarusa River WRAPS Implementation Project

State Contact for Additional Information

For more information about WRAPS, please contact Don Snethen, WRAPS Working Group Chairman, at 785-296-4195, or e-mail at dsnethen@kdhe.state.ks.us. Additional information is posted online at www.kdhe.state.ks.us/nps.

Kansas - City Dump Grant Program

History/Purpose

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's (KDHE) Bureau of Environmental Remediation (BER) administers the City Dump Grant Program through its Assessment and Restoration Section (ARS). The City Dump Grant Program provides funds to cities or counties for the repair of old, unused municipal dump sites (the old city dumps). These sites primarily operated between the 1930s and 1970s, before communities had sanitary landfills or implementation of solid waste regulations. After passage of the solid waste regulations, these dumpsites were no longer used and most were abandoned. Closures of some of the old city dumps were improper and lack of long-term care has compromised the soil covers, allowing waste to be exposed.

After the floods of 1993, the ARS began to inspect these old dump sites to determine the condition and whether repairs would be necessary. The ARS compiled a list of approximately 850 dumpsites throughout the state of Kansas. Since that time, efforts have been made to repair as many of these dump sites as possible with funding available through Solid Waste Tipping Fees. These fees are levied on all solid wastes that are disposed of in landfills on a per-ton basis. ARS uses these funds to address the necessary repairs at compromised dump sites.

Implementation

Sites are prioritized for risk to human health and the environment based on the type of wastes involved, amount of waste at a site, and proximity to receptors. Once the site reaches the top of the prioritization list, KDHE contacts the local city or county to determine if they have the funds to repair the site. If local funds are not available, KDHE provides 100 percent of the funding to repair the dump site. The city or county prepares a work plan with a not-to-exceed cost estimate. KDHE reviews the work plan and cost estimate. When approved by KDHE, a contract is written between KDHE and the city or county. KDHE encourages the city or county to use their own personnel for the projects. However, due to staff limitations, some sites require hiring of engineers or contractors to complete the work.

Stakeholders

The KDHE Landfill Remediation Program in BER administers the program by providing technical guidance, funding, and oversight for city dump repair projects. Kansas' cities and counties receive the grant funding to implement the individual projects.

Examples of Achievements to Date

The first dump repair projects were initiated in 1995. Forty-six city dumps have been repaired as of July 1, 2005, at a total cost of approximately $3 million. The City Dump Grant Program typically provides approximately $250,000 to $300,000 per year for city dump repair projects.

State Contact for Additional Information

KDHE Landfill Remediation Program – Bob Jurgens, Unit Manager
Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 410, Topeka, KS 66612-1367
Phone: 785-291-3250; fax: 785-296-4823
E-mail: bjurgens@kdhe.state.ks.us
Web site: www.kdhe.state.ks.us/ars

Kansas - Brownfields Targeted Assessment Program

History/Purpose

Brownfields are defined as real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. The goal of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's (KDHE's) Brownfields Program is to ensure that contaminated properties in Kansas communities are appropriately assessed, cleaned up and reused, allowing for benefits to the environment, community and industry.

Under a Cooperative Agreement with EPA, KDHE has been performing Brownfields Targeted Assessments (BTAs) for communities at properties that are proposed for redevelopment since 1998. BTAs are Phase I and/or Phase II environmental site assessments that are conducted to determine if historical property use has had any environmental impacts on the property. This effort has allowed KDHE to coordinate cooperative efforts with local governments to assess and address brownfields sites to facilitate their sustainable reuse.

Implementation

When a community expresses an interest in the BTA program, KDHE provides a BTA application package for the appropriate contact to fill out. Once KDHE approves the application, KDHE assigns a contractor to initiate the assessment. After the assessment has been completed, KDHE provides both the assessment and a written recommendation on the property to the BTA applicant.

Each year, KDHE's Brownfields Program conducts a series of workshops to engage local communities in brownfields redevelopment. The workshops are intended to not only educate members of the public on KDHE's Brownfields Program, but to get these entities to explore brownfields possibilities in their communities.

Stakeholders

KDHE, EPA, and any municipalities or nonprofit agencies with an interest in brownfields redevelopment.

Examples of Achievements to Date

To date, more than 100 Phase I and/or Phase II assessments have been completed for more than 46 communities. Many of these assessments determined that no environmental concerns were present at the properties.

State Contact for Additional Information

Brownfields Program Coordinator:

Bridget Wilson
KDHE/BER
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 410
Topeka, Kansas 66611
(785) 291-3246
bwilson@kdhe.state.ks.us

Program Web Sites:

www.kdhe.state.ks.us/brownfields/index.html
www.redevelopks.org

Iowa - Wastewater Management in Small Rural Communities

History/Purpose

The purpose is to establish a comprehensive, innovative approach for addressing wastewater management in Iowa's smallest communities, in order to better utilize limited resources and reduce public health risk.

Iowa has 350 incorporated communities with under 500 in population, and fewer than 540 with under 1,000. Of these, 150 provide little to no wastewater treatment, a status shared by an additional 550 unincorporated communities and rural developments. Collectively, these "unsewered" communities have more than 21,500 problem homes, resulting in over a billion gallons of inadequately treated sewage making its way into Iowa's environment annually. The wastewater disposal methods for these communities were typically developed and installed prior to the establishment of standards. As a result, they often discharge untreated or partially treated waste containing high levels of pollutants directly or via drainage tile to a nearby ditch, stream or lake, where it potentially comes into contact with humans or the water they drink. Those small rural communities with functional wastewater treatment systems often lack adequate maintenance capability to ensure they are operating in a manner which is protective to our environment and public health.

Implementation

Work has focused on three prevalent issues:

1. **Lack of viable management entities.** Even with the most "passive" systems, ongoing management and maintenance is a critical issue. Poor management and maintenance can significantly reduce treatment efficiency and effectiveness. Many of these communities lack administrative abilities to effectively own, operate, and maintain a wastewater treatment system.
2. **Limited financing.** Per unit construction costs are higher in small communities than in larger ones, and average incomes are frequently lower. Small rural sewered and unsewered communities typically require grants to make wastewater infrastructure projects affordable. Additionally, existing financing mechanisms do not always focus on those communities posing the greatest public health risk first.
3. **Uncommon use of cost-effective alternative and innovative technologies.** The initial planning funds needed to identify the most effective and lowest life-cycle cost approach are not readily available, and few private engineering firms have experience in small cluster and alternative designs. As a result, the best approach, which may include innovative or alternative systems, is not always presented as an option.

Stakeholders

Key stakeholders in this effort have been: USDA Rural Development, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Iowa Department of Economic Development, Iowa Finance Authority, and East Central Iowa Council of Governments. They have been active participants in the planning effort to date. Other stakeholders include rural water agencies, county governments, regional council of governments, municipalities, municipal utilities, environmental organizations, consulting engineers, and elected officials.

Achievements to Date

- Development of a comprehensive geo-referenced inventory of unsewered communities in Iowa.
- Improved coordination among funding agencies by developing a shared inventory and initiating the development of a prioritization method that is public health risk-based.
- Development of a start-up grant program for potential utility management organizations, which promotes good business planning and offers start-up funds necessary to establish the organizations. Has not been rolled out yet.

- Development of an innovative and alternative technology pre-approval process, which will reduce planning costs associated with innovative technologies, thereby eliminating the consulting engineers' time for collecting data and documentation to support the use of the technology.

State Contact for Additional Information

Contact Scott Vander Hart at 515/281-5325, or Scott.VanderHart@dnr.state.ia.us for more information.

Missouri - Illegal Disposal of Solid Waste

History/Purpose

The illegal dumping of solid waste has been and continues to be a problem in Missouri. Aside from the diminished aesthetic appearance of Missouri's natural resources and associated negative impacts on tourism, these dumps pose threats to public health and the environment. The department's efforts to curb illegal dumping are limited by staffing. In addition, "normal" dumping is done in very remote locations. Many of the persons responsible for illegal dumping have very limited financial resources and are unable to pay for removing the trash to legal destinations. Local prosecution is much quicker and has a greater deterrent effect. Local "trash cop" programs have been implemented in a few counties around the state and all have had good success in deterring illegal dumping. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources hosted free workshops throughout the state to help local governments address illegal dumping problems. The purpose of the workshops is to help local governments establish and operate local environmental enforcement programs.

Implementation

On June 14, 2000, the department's Solid Waste Management Program awarded a bid to a consultant to develop a manual and conduct 12 two-day workshops around the state. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources hosted the free workshops. The intent of the workshops was to encourage local law enforcement agencies, local prosecutors, state park rangers, conservation agents, water patrol personnel, and others interested in this issue to pursue cases of illegal dumping at the local level.

Through this project, the department provided local governments with a user-friendly resource guide that will help local law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges develop effective programs to combat illegal dumping in their communities. The manual also includes successful case studies from the State of Missouri and other programs across the country.

Stakeholders

Local law enforcement and public works agencies, local prosecutors, state park rangers, conservation agents, water patrol personnel, and local landowners where the illegal dumping is occurring.

Achievements to Date

The department now provides the resource manuals developed during the project to anyone interested. No data is available on the actual number of communities that have initiated local programs as a result of this effort. However, the project educated about 200 individuals and resulted in the development of an improved rapport between local and state officials.

State Contact for Additional Information

Dan Fester, (573) 526-3909
Dan.fester@dnr.mo.gov

Missouri - Asbestos Removal

History/Purpose

The Missouri Department of Natural Resource's Air Pollution Control Program (APCP) of the State of Missouri implements state and federal regulations regarding the removal of asbestos. Community Development Block Grants have been made available to small communities desiring to initiate improvement projects. Many times, these projects involve the demolition of structures in blighted areas. These structures are generally residential in nature. EPA guidance indicates that multiple structures in a one-block area that are to be demolished in a calendar year are subject to federal asbestos regulations. The department's APCP has worked with the Department of Economic Development (DED) to educate small communities about the requirements of the asbestos regulations.

Implementation

Through a number of avenues, the department's APCP will become aware that communities have been awarded grants to conduct demolitions of large structures. The APCP then contacts the community representatives and the DED to obtain more information regarding the details of the project. The APCP will then go about educating the communities on the asbestos requirements and assist them in designing their projects so that they will comply with the rules. Often times, the APCP will involve the department's Environmental Assistance office in this process.

Stakeholders

Local communities and landowners.

Examples of Achievements to Date

- Developed training program to assist communities
- Trained DED personnel on asbestos requirements
- Face-to-face meetings with individual communities
- Assistance in designing demolition project plans

State Contact for Additional Information

Steven Feeler, (573) 751-4817, or visit www.dnr.mo.gov/env/apcp/index.html (Air Pollution Control Program) for more information.

Missouri - Environmental Emergency Response

History/Purpose

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' (MDNR's) Environmental Emergency Response (EER) Section gains its authority from Chapter 260-500-550, RSMo, commonly referred to as the "Spill Bill." The Spill Bill also gave local agencies the ability to seek reimbursement for reasonable cleanup costs associated with a hazardous substance release to which they responded. Disputed costs may be appealed to the department and a determination will be made by the department (EER Section) on what costs are reasonable and appropriate.

The EER Section has a spill reporting telephone number (573-634-2436) answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week for environmental emergencies, such as petroleum and chemicals releases and other environmental concerns. By contacting this number, responsible parties fulfill any state reporting requirements. The EER Section has hazardous materials trained responders available 24/7 statewide to respond on-site to assist local officials during a hazardous materials incident.

Implementation

The EER Section has hazardous materials technicians specially trained as Duty Officers to maintain the 24/7 spill reporting number (573-634-2436) to report environmental emergencies in Jefferson City. There are currently 14 Duty Officers that rotate this responsibility. The EER Section also has hazardous materials technicians trained as State On-Scene Coordinators throughout the state. These coordinators serve the St. Louis Metro Area (2), Southeast Missouri (2), Southwest Missouri (2), Kansas City Metro Area/Northwest Missouri (2), and Northeast Missouri (1). The EER Section also has five full-time State On-Scene Coordinators serving mid-Missouri and supporting all other statewide State On-Scene Coordinators and eight part-time staff serving in the same capacity as mentioned above.

The EER Section has hazardous materials cleanup contractors available 24/7 to bring resources to the scene, in the event that the responsible party is unknown or recalcitrant.

Stakeholders

Anyone adversely impacted by an environmental emergency.

Examples of Achievements to Date

Statistics for 1/01/05 through 6/30/05:

- 1,980 total reported incidents
- 1,103 meth lab incidents
- 877 haz mat/other incidents
    - 402 petroleum-related
    - 53 sewage-related
    - 45 agricultural-related
    - 37 mercury-related
    - 22 waste tire-related
    - 19 animal waste-related
    - 13 explosives/ordnance-related
- 187 on-site responses

State Contact for Additional Information

Alan Reinkemeyer, (573) 526-3384, alan.reinkemeyer@dnr.mo.gov, or Brad Harris, (573) 526-4794, brad.harris@dnr.mo.gov, or visit www.dnr.mo.gov for more information.

Missouri - Clandestine Drug Lab Collection Station Program

History/Purpose

The Clandestine Drug Lab Collection Station Program (CDLCS), authorized by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' (MDNR's) Hazardous Waste Program, partners with local agencies (fire departments, haz mat teams) and law enforcement agencies to locate 20 collection sites throughout the state. After receiving proper training, law enforcement then transport seized clandestine drug lab materials (primarily meth labs) to the nearest CDLCS. A CDLCS provides for a legal, safe, and secure location in which the meth lab chemicals are managed and temporarily stored, pending processing and proper disposal.

Implementation

There are currently 20 CDLCSs operating throughout the state located in the following cities: Sedalia, Grain Valley, Kansas City, Maryville, Richmond, Trenton, Kirksville, Palmyra, Troy, Chesterfield, Union, Hillsboro, Jackson, Kennett, Poplar Bluff, West Plains, Joplin, Nevada, Osage Beach, and Rolla.

The Environmental Emergency Response (EER) Section and the Missouri State Highway Patrol deliver a 40-hour hazardous materials/health-and-safety training course that instructs and certifies law enforcement to enter and dismantle clandestine labs. These agencies also sponsor annual 8-hour health-and-safety refreshers and a new site safety officer training course. The EER Section also distributes personal protective equipment and supplies, cleanup items, and air monitoring equipment to local agencies at no cost.

Stakeholders

Missouri law enforcement agencies directly benefit. The health and safety of the citizens of Missouri and the environment are better protected and a cost-efficient mechanism is in place to safely dispose of seized chemicals, savings taxpayers millions of dollars.

Examples of Achievements to Date:

- To date, nearly 9,000 lab incidents totaling 360,000 lbs. of debris have been processed at the collection stations. Included in this figure is over 87,000 lbs. of hazardous waste that has been disposed of properly, and nearly 58,000 lbs. of material has been reused/recycled.
- To date, more than 800 law enforcement officers and other emergency response officials have received training during 28 courses.
- To date, the following supplies, equipment, and air monitoring have been provided:
  - air-purifying respirators: 481 provided, 219 agencies benefited
  - self-contained breathing apparatus: 327 provided, 147 agencies benefited
  - supply kits: 450 provided, 209 agencies benefited
  - Drager pump kits: 227 provided, 136 agencies benefited

State Contact for Additional Information

Alan Reinkemeyer, (573) 526-3384, alan.reinkemeyer@dnr.mo.gov, or Brad Harris, (573) 526-4794, brad.harris@dnr.mo.gov, or visit www.dnr.mo.gov for more information.

Missouri - Illegal Dumping Surveillance Camera Project

History/Purpose

This project consists of deploying surveillance camera equipment at unpermitted roadside dumps to obtain clear evidence of illegal activity and identify violators. This evidence is then turned over to local prosecutors for enforcement, cleaning up dump sites, and paying penalties, in order to deter illegal dumping.

Prior to this project, the department had very little success identifying parties responsible for promiscuous dumping. Illegal dumpers must be positively identified in order to collect penalties and require cleanup. If dumps are not cleaned up, experience shows that illegal dumping will continue.

Implementation

The dump must be active and there must be a good location to deploy the camera equipment. In some instances, the department must gain permission from private landowners to deploy the equipment on their property. This is generally done through an access agreement. Local prosecuting attorneys and sheriff's officers are briefed and their support is gained. Camera equipment is then deployed. Periodic maintenance is conducted, batteries and tapes are changed, and the team ensures that the equipment has not been damaged or vandalized.

The tapes are then reviewed, license plate numbers are gathered and checked, and contact is made with the identified dumpers. Interviews of dumpers are conducted in conjunction with local law enforcement personnel, confession statements are taken, and documentation prepared. The local judge is briefed, the parties meet in court, the judge issues his orders, any follow-up work is conducted, and all documentation is filed. Completed cases are then publicized. As a result of the publicity, all activity stops at the dumpsites where the cameras were deployed.

Stakeholders

Prosecuting attorneys, judges, sheriff departments' staff, county and city public works staff, solid waste management district staff, the general public, and landowners where illegal dumping is occurring.

Examples of Achievements to Date

The initial startup cost was provided by a federal grant. Existing staff was used for this project during the startup phase. Approximately $1,000 in supplies is purchased each year including tapes, batteries, gas, and vehicle use. Total personnel time utilized is ¾ of one full-time employee. The project obtains no additional funds to operate. Necessary costs are paid out of existing funds.

So far, the department has turned 38 illegal dumping cases over to county prosecutors throughout the state with evidence obtained from utilizing the surveillance cameras. All have resulted in convictions, where the judge has ordered the individual to pay restitution back to the county so the monies can be used to clean up the subject dump site.

Publicity has helped to deter potential illegal dumping activity and educate many thousands of citizens about the laws, effects, and risks of illegal dumping.

State Contact for Additional Information

Terry Ball, (573) 526-8980, terry.ball@dnr.mo.gov

Missouri - Clean Water & Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program

History/Purpose

In 1990, Missouri began the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program followed this in 1998. The CWSRF and DWSRF receive capitalization grants from EPA, which are matched with state funds. These funds are used to provide low-interest loans for wastewater and water infrastructure projects.

Implementation

Loans are made to eligible applicants, based on priority and readiness-to-proceed criteria. Small entities that would qualify for an SRF loan, but are found to be financially incapable of retiring the debt, are referred to other federal and state agencies for funding. Loans may be secured by a revenue or general obligation bond issue.

Entities desiring to be considered for funding from either program must submit an application by November 15th of the year prior to the fiscal year that funding is desired.

Stakeholders

Missouri law requires that at least 35 percent of the monies credited to the DWSRF program is made available to systems that serve fewer than 10,000 people. Twenty percent is for systems serving 3,000 or fewer people, and 15 percent is for systems serving 3,301 to 9,999 people.

Examples of Achievements to Date

- Since the inception of the State Revolving Fund program, more than $1.5 billion has been provided to Missouri entities for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements.
- Approximately $100.9 million has been provided in low-interest loans to public water systems with service populations of less than 10,000 for water system improvements.
- Approximately $343.8 million has been provided in low-interest loans to communities with populations of less than 10,000 for wastewater system improvements.

State Contact for Additional Information

Doug Garrett, (573) 751-5723, doug.garrett@dnr.mo.gov, or visit www.dnr.mo.gov/wpscd/wpcp/srf/cwsrf-info.htm for information on the Clean Water State Revolving Fund

David Uhlig, (573) 751-1302, david.uhlig@dnr.mo.gov, or visit www.dnr.mo.gov/wpscd/wpcp/srf/dwsrf-info.htm for information on the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

Missouri - Rural Sewer Grant Program

History/Purpose
The Rural Sewer Grant Program was implemented in 1983. The program was developed to assist small rural communities and sewer districts in funding new wastewater collection systems.

Implementation
This is a state program funded through the sale of State Water Pollution Control bonds. Applicants must receive an invitation to apply from the Missouri Water & Wastewater Review Committee (MWWRC). The MWWRC is composed of representatives from state and federal infrastructure funding agencies. The committee evaluates project proposals and makes a recommendation as to which state and/or federal program may be appropriate for the project proposal. The potential recipient is then invited to apply, based upon their application and the financial information provided to the committee.

Grants are limited to $1,400 per contracted connection or 50 percent of the eligible project cost, whichever is less. Furthermore, no grant shall exceed one-third of that year's appropriation or $450,000, whichever is greater.

Issues
Continued funding for this program is dependent on the sale of state bonds. Due to state budget constraints, state bonds have not been sold during the last few years. Therefore, there are no new funds for this program.

Stakeholders
Small rural communities that cannot afford loans.

Examples of Achievements to Date
More than $4 million has been awarded to communities through this program since 2000. These funds were used in conjunction with other state and federal funding to provide complete wastewater conveyance and treatment systems to rural areas.

State Contact for Additional Information:
Carrie Schulte, (573) 526-8403, carrie.schulte@dnr.mo.gov

Missouri - State Forty-Percent Construction Grant Program

History/Purpose

In 1990, the Missouri Clean Water Commission developed the State Forty-Percent Construction Grant Program to provide assistance to those communities financially ineligible for Missouri's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) leveraged loan program. The leveraged loan program is the flagship program of the CWSRF. Sometimes communities do not have the financial capacity to afford a loan through the CWSRF. However, they may be eligible to participate in the Forty-Percent Construction Grant program.

All projects are listed in the CWSRF Intended Use Plan and approved by the commission.

Implementation

This is a state program funded through the sale of State Water Pollution Control bonds. Applicants must receive an invitation to apply from the Missouri Water & Wastewater Review Committee (MWWRC). The MWWRC is composed of representatives from state and federal infrastructure funding agencies. The committee evaluates project proposals and makes a recommendation as to which state and/or federal program may be appropriate for the project proposal. The potential recipient is then invited to apply, based upon their application and the financial information provided to the committee.

A direct loan using CWSRF repayment funds is offered to the eligible recipient of the Forty-Percent Grant for as much as 60 percent of project costs.

Issues

Continued funding for the Forty-Percent Construction Grant Program is dependent on the sale of state bonds. Due to state budget constraints, state bonds have not been sold the last few years. Therefore, there are no new funds for this program.

Stakeholders

This program is federally funded and provides financial assistance to municipalities, counties, public sewers, small business owners, and others in the private sector.

Examples of Achievements to Date

- More than 50 communities have been assisted through this program.
- More than $26.5 million has been awarded to communities through this program.

State Contact for Additional Information

Carrie Schulte, (573) 526-8403, carrie.schulte@dnr.mo.gov, or visit www.dnr.mo.gov/wpscd/wpcp/srf/cwsrf-info.htm for more information.

Missouri - Small Borrower Program

History/Purpose

In 2002, the Missouri Clean Water Commission approved the development of the Small Borrowers Program. The Small Borrowers Program is designed to help small communities meet their immediate water and wastewater financial needs. These funds would help a small community in emergency situations. However, as funding allows, communities that have received as much funding as possible from other sources, but still do not have all the financing necessary to complete the project, may receive additional funding through the Small Borrower Program.

Implementation

Loans are funded through the sale of state bonds and are awarded on a first-come basis. Loans may be secured by a bond issue or annually appropriated debt. Uncommitted funds can be accessed throughout the year and made available upon commission review and approval.

Issues

Continued funding for the Small Borrower Program is dependent on the sale of state bonds. Due to state budget constraints, state bonds have not been sold in recent years. Therefore, there are no new funds for this program.

Stakeholders

The program is limited to communities with less than 1,000 population; the loan amount is limited to $100,000.

Examples of Achievements to Date

- Fourteen communities have been or are being assisted through this program.
- More than $1 million has been awarded as loans to these communities.

State Contact for Additional Information

Carrie Schulte, (573) 526-8403, carrie.schulte@dnr.mo.gov, or visit www.dnr.mo.gov/wpscd/wpcp/srf/cwsrf-small-loans.htm (wastewater) or www.dnr.mo.gov/wpscd/wpcp/srf/dwsrf-small-loans.htm (drinking water) for more information.

Missouri - Waste Reduction and Recycling

History/Purpose
Each year, funds are generated through the collection of a solid waste fee on every ton of solid waste disposed in a sanitary landfill or demolition landfill, or transported out of state from a transfer station in Missouri.

The fee originated from legislation passed by the Missouri legislature in 1990 to promote waste reduction and conserve landfill space, and became effective October 1, 1990.

Implementation
Through grants, the department encourages waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and energy recovery. Most grants are administered by the state's 20 solid waste management districts for projects in their areas. The districts select proposals that best meet local goals for reducing the amount of waste disposed in landfills.

Up to this fiscal year, there were also statewide grants available for funding similar projects. These statewide grants were administered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Unfortunately, the statewide grants have been discontinued.

Funds also support financial and technical assistance to promote the development of markets for recovered materials.

Stakeholders
The state's 20 solid waste management districts, solid waste management industry, and recycling facilities. A significant portion of the fee collected provides grants to small communities and urban areas for waste reduction and recycling projects.

Examples of Achievements to Date
During 2004, Missourians generated approximately 12 million tons of waste. Nearly 47 percent of this waste was diverted and put to good use, instead of being buried in landfills. Since 1990, this percentage of diversion has risen from 10 to 47 percent because of an increase in recycling and yard waste services and more markets for the materials. More Missourians now have recycling and composting services in their communities, providing the public a convenient and affordable alternative to disposal.

State Contact for Additional Information
Patrick Muck, (573) 751-5401, or visit www.dnr.mo.gov/alpd/swmp/financial/Swmpfund.htm for more information.

Missouri - Environmental Assistance Office (EAO)

History/Purpose

The Environmental Assistance Office (EAO), formed in 1994, is a multi-disciplinary team of experienced professionals in environmental engineering, water and wastewater operations, and other areas of environmental expertise. It assists small communities with meeting environmental, financial and technical challenges to improve their performance. Many of the challenges facing small communities in Missouri are due to limited financial and technical resources and an increased demand for public services and environmental compliance. EAO provides training, education, tools and assistance to Missouri communities, businesses, agricultural interests, educational institutions and citizens. Acting primarily as a non-regulatory program within the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, EAO's goal is to foster improved environmental performance and compliance. This is accomplished through the various training courses we offer, and through on-site compliance assessments, publications, and multimedia presentations.

Implementation

In order to accomplish these efforts, the department's EAO works with mayors, council members, aldermen, and other city and county staff and elected officials. The intent is to help local leaders to better understand regulations and pollution prevention opportunities; to assess, identify, and prioritize their needs, especially related to water and wastewater infrastructure; and work with them through the processes to accomplish their goals.

EAO has received the following grants to assist communities in these efforts: an EPA Brownfields Assessment grant to assist communities in redevelopment of properties; a stormwater grant to train communities on the Stormwater Phase II requirements; and an Asset Management grant and others to train community leaders about the needs of their communities.

Stakeholders

Missouri citizens, communities, sewer and water districts, state and federal government agencies, regional planning commissions, educational institutions, and other service providers.

Examples of Achievements to Date

- On-site environmental compliance assessments.
- Pollution prevention assessments and technical assistance.
- Workshops on drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, low-impact development, asset management, and other environmental topics of interest to local governments.
- Development of the "Show-Me Ratemaker" programs for water and sewer rate analysis.
- Hands-on assistance to local governments and districts in infrastructure projects, acquiring funding, and related issues
- Certification and training of water and wastewater operators.
- Provision of tools, technical information, and publications through the department's Web site.

State Contact for Additional Information

Byron Shaw, 1-800-361-4827, or visit www.dnr.mo.gov/oac/env_assistance.htm, Environmental Assistance Office for more information.

Missouri - Engineering Contract Services

History/Purpose

A portion of the two-percent set aside of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) is used for engineering contract services (engineering report studies) for small, incorporated water systems in need of improving technical, managerial and financial capacity. The needs are based primarily on compliance information and infrastructure conditions and capacity, along with the willingness of the systems to look at consolidation options, whether physical and/or operational/managerial. Engineering contract services provide systems with the funding to have an entire system evaluation considering all options. Water systems that apply with the intent to benefit another system(s) obtain priority points in the application process for the problems associated with the other system(s) [e.g., a public water supply district expanding to take over operation and maintenance of a mobile home park water system in need].

The Contract for Engineering Services also assists small water systems with obtaining funding for project development, as there is a requirement for systems to apply to the Missouri Water and Wastewater Review Committee (MWWRC) for project development and construction funding. The MWWRC is comprised of all the state and federal funding agencies within Missouri, and includes the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' (MDNR's) DWSRF Loan Program, MDNR's Public Drinking Water Branch Rural Grant and Loan Program, the Missouri Department of Economic Development's Community Development Block Grant Program, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Program. The MWWRC meets twice a month to discuss all project applicants' needs and possible funding options to best fit those needs.

Implementation

For fiscal year (FY) 2006, applications were mailed to all municipalities and public water supply districts serving 10,000 or less in population. The application is very brief and coordinates with the SRF application by assigning priority points for certain issues that a system may have (e.g., lack of storage, lack of capacity, security). The department received 43 applications and 17 grant awards were made for a maximum amount of $7,500 each. The payments will be made in 25 percent increments, with the final payment not being made until after the submitted engineering report has been approved.

Stakeholders

Include public water supply districts serving populations of 10,000 or less.

Examples of Achievements to Date

There have been 66 small water systems funded through the Engineering Report Services from FY 2000 to FY 2005. Of these 66 systems, 41 have applied to the MWWRC and 21 have been funded for project development, and about six are currently being evaluated for project development funding. There were 17 systems that were funded in FY 2006. This program has resulted in many small water systems with compliance problems connecting to larger, viable systems; the formation of regional water systems to eliminate small systems with significant non-compliance problems; and small systems obtaining managerial and financial capacity to address their technical needs.

State Contact for Additional Information

Shannon M. Pinkerton, (573) 751-1599

Missouri - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

History/Purpose

The Governor of Missouri entered a memorandum of agreement with USDA establishing Missouri's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Partners to this program include the Missouri Department of Agriculture, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the Missouri Department of Conservation, and others. The program protects drinking water reservoirs by reducing excess pesticides, nutrients, and sediment running off cropland, while also providing wildlife habitat. The program is similar to a traditional Conservation Reserve Program, except that it is available only in drinking water watersheds. Being located in an eligible watershed ensures the landowners acceptance into the program. CREP pays incentives beyond a traditional Conservation Reserve Program.

Implementation

Eligible water systems were informed of the program. USDA field staff contact farmers and landowners in the watersheds that chose to participate. MDNR's Public Drinking Water Branch awards grants to water systems. That grant money is then passed to participating farmers as incentives to join the program. MDNR's Soil & Water Conservation Program also shares the cost of implementing conservation practices on the retired cropland. These two sources of state funds serve as 20-percent match for the program. USDA approved 80 percent of the funding in the form of rental and other payments directly to landowners. Once enrolled, the lands remain in the program for 15 years.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders include public drinking water systems, communities (mostly rural), water system customers, landowners, and tenant farmers.

Examples of Achievements to Date

Over 15,000 acres have been reserved for wildlife habitat. By taking this land out of agricultural production, the amount of pesticides, nutrients, and sediment flowing into drinking water reservoirs has been reduced. This reduces the cost of drinking water treatment, improves the safety of drinking water, and extends the usable life of the reservoirs. Seventeen communities are benefiting from this program. The program will also bring more than $13 million of federal money into these small communities over the next 15 years.

State Contact for Additional Information

Don Scott, (573) 526-5448

Nebraska - Nebraska Environmental Partnerships (NEP)

History/Purpose

The NEP program is a unique and innovative state–coordinated effort that helps small and rural governments address the challenges posed by complex environmental regulations, limited financial resources, aging infrastructure, aging population, and small communities getting smaller. The NEP program assists small communities with meeting these challenges through a team process that helps the community prioritize risks and find technically and financially feasible solutions.

The program was launched in 1994 as the Nebraska Mandates Management Initiative (NMMI) and was designed to help small communities (typically populations of 1,000 or less) cope with the increasing number of unfunded federal environmental regulations. As the NMMI program worked with communities, it was discovered that most were not in violation of environmental regulations but many had significant environmental infrastructure issues. Because of these findings, the program changed its name from NMMI to NEP to reflect the change in focus.

Implementation

NEP uses intergovernmental and interdisciplinary team processes to work with communities. The intent is to help local leaders better understand regulations; analyze the local situations and issues; prioritize the problems according to their associated risks; and find technically and financially feasible solutions to the identified problems and risks.

One of the first steps in the team process is a **Community Assessment Grant** ($3,000). The grant provides funding for the community to hire the consultant of its choice to assess the community's environmental health risks. NEP team members and the village/city board use the consultant's technical summary to determine next steps. The next steps could include the following: **Planning Grants** allow public water supply systems serving populations of 10,000 or less the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to $10,000 to assist in a drinking water project. **Facility Planning Grants** allow publicly-owned wastewater treatment works serving populations of 5,000 or less, which are identified with a financial hardship, the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to $12,500 to assist in a wastewater project. All systems must be listed on the current Intended Use Plan.

Stakeholders

The NEP team consists of representatives from state agencies, the University of Nebraska, statewide organizations, regional organizations, and the federal government.

Examples of Achievements to Date

- An evaluative study to assess the environmental effects on business in small communities.
- Provided community assessments or initiated the community assessment process in 230 communities. Provided Planning and Facility Planning grant funding to 56 communities.
- Created and implemented community informational training to address individual community's current issues and needs.

State Contact for Additional Information

Jackie Stumpff, (402) 471-3193, jackie.stumpff@ndeq.state.ne.us, or visit www.deq.state.ne.us/, Environmental Assistance Programs for more information.

Nebraska - Partnership for Rural Nebraska (PRN)

History/Purpose

The original charter for the Partnership for Rural Nebraska was approved and signed on August 9, 1995 by the Governor of Nebraska, the President of the University of Nebraska, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The mission of the Partnership for Rural Nebraska is to improve the effectiveness of resources that support local-based rural development efforts statewide, and to better utilize human and financial resources for rural development.

Implementation

Separately, each of these critical public institutions has a statewide mission and administrative responsibilities for a large percentage of the resources available to assist rural Nebraska. Together, these institutions have the potential to leverage additional resources to benefit rural Nebraska, and to better utilize existing resources. The Partnership for Rural Nebraska concept builds upon positive results of voluntary communication and collaboration, both statewide and locally.

The PRN cooperates on program and service delivery, thereby achieving greater efficiency and easing the access by rural Nebraskans to partner programs. It also:

- Educates each other on available resources and rural development needs, using educational opportunities such as the annual Nebraska Rural Institute, and agency orientations.
- Communicates to Nebraskans and others regarding rural development activities, opportunities, and challenges through the newsletter, *Rural News Bits.*

Stakeholders

The Partnership for Rural Nebraska is a strategic partnership formed by three major institutions:

- University of Nebraska including, but not limited to, the UNL Center for Applied Rural Innovation (CARI); the UNK Center for Rural Research and Development; and the NU Rural Initiative
- State of Nebraska including, but not limited to, the Department of Economic Development; and the Department of Environmental Quality
- U.S. Department of Agriculture including, but not limited to, USDA Rural Development; and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Examples of Achievements to Date

- The Nebraska Rural Institute, an annual conference educating participants about rural development. Over 2,000 attendees have participated in the conference since its implementation in 1995.
- "Let's Meet…" in *Rural News Bits* to introduce people who are working in rural development. *Rural News Bits* is published 10 times a year, and reaches over 6,000 subscribers.
- Agency orientation sessions to inform participants (primarily new employees) of the programs in various organizations across the state.

State Contact for Additional Information

Jackie Stumpff, (402) 471-3193, jackie.stumpff@ndeq.state.ne.us, or visit www.deq.state.ne.us/, Environmental Assistance Programs for more information.

Nebraska - Water Wastewater Advisory Committee (WWAC)

History/Purpose
The WWAC was created in 1997 to optimize sources and uses of funding for water and sewer projects; provide the best funding package to a community; work with communities as a team to assist them in building a project; and in one-stop shopping.

Implementation
Agency staffs meet monthly on an informal basis to discuss the progress of jointly funded projects and to identify the best options available for funding a new project. The WWAC reviews the project pre-application, then advises the applicant which assistance provider(s) can best meet the project funding needs. Project owners may also contact the individual agencies directly without going to the WWAC.

Stakeholders
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD) for water and wastewater grant and loan programs
- Nebraska Health and Human Services System Regulation & Licensure (HHSS R&L) representing the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF)
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program
- Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF), and the Nebraska Environmental Partnerships Program (NEP) for planning grants and facility planning grants

WWAC activities are coordinated by a Steering Committee. No specific agency has the lead.

Examples of Achievements to Date
- The Nebraska WWAC is one of the first multi-agency efforts in the United States that addresses water and wastewater projects jointly, and seeks to find the best funding source for the community.
- In state fiscal year 2004, WWAC agencies awarded over $60 million to 40 communities.

State Contact for Additional Information
Jackie Stumpff, (402) 471-3193, jackie.stumpff@ndeq.state.ne.us, or visit www.deq.state.ne.us/, Environmental Assistance Programs for more information.